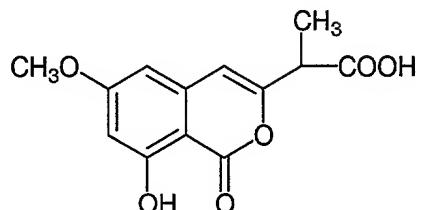


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for inducing cell death in a cancer cell, comprising contacting said cancer cell with an isocoumarin derivative of the formula:



5

and further contacting said cancer cell with a glucocorticoid, wherein the dose of said isocoumarin derivative when combined with the dose of said glucocorticoid is effective to induce cell death in said cancer cell.

10 2. The method of claim 2, wherein said inducing cell comprises inducing apoptosis.

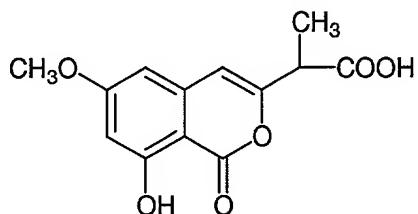
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said cancer cell is a myleoma cell

4. The method of claim 4, wherein said glucocorticoid is dexamethasone or prednisone.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising contacting said cancer cell with one or more other chemotherapeutic agents.

15 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said one or more other chemotherapeutic agents is or are selected from the group consisting of vincristine, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, cisplatin, melphalan, mitoxantrone, BCNU, idarubicin, procarbazine, and cytoxan.

7. A method for inhibiting the proliferation of a cancer cell, comprising contacting said cancer with an isocoumarin derivative of the formula:



5 and further contacting said cancer cell with a glucocorticoid, wherein the dose of said isocoumarin derivative when combined with the dose of said glucocorticoid is effective to inhibit the proliferation of said cancer cell.

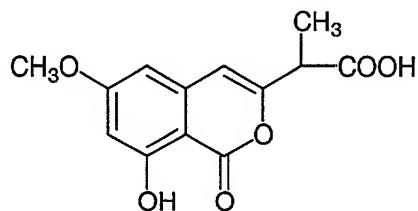
8. The method of claim 7, wherein said cancer cell is a myleoma cell

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said glucocorticoid is dexamethasone or prednisone.

10. The method of claim 7, further comprising contacting said cancer cell with one or more other chemotherapeutic agents.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said one or more other chemotherapeutic agents is or are selected from the group consisting of vincristine, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, cisplatin, melphalan, mitoxantrone, BCNU, idarubicin, procarbazine, and cytoxan.

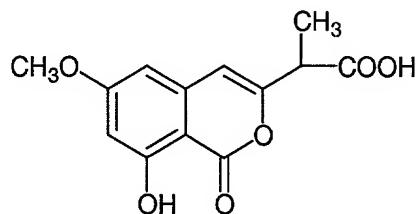
15 12. A method for treating multiple myeloma in a human patient, comprising administering an isocoumarin derivative of the formula:



and administering a glucocorticoid as a second treatment modality, wherein the administration of said isocoumarin derivative when combined with the administration of said glucocorticoid, is effective to treat said multiple myeloma.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said glucocorticoid is dexamethasone or prednisone.

5 14. A method for treating multiple myeloma in a human patient, comprising administering an isocoumarin derivative of the formula:



and administering a glucocorticoid as a second treatment modality and administering one or more other chemotherapeutic agents as further treatment modalities, wherein the administration of said isocoumarin derivative when combined with the administration said glucocorticoid and administration of said one or more other chemotherapeutic agents is effective to treat said multiple myeloma.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said glucocorticoid is dexamethasone.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said administration of one or more other chemotherapeutic agents is the administration of vincristine as a third treatment modality and the administration of doxorubicin as a fourth treatment modality.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein said one or more other chemotherapeutic agents is or are selected from the group consisting of vincristine, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, cisplatin, melphalan, BCNU and idarubicin.

20 18. The method of claim 14, wherein said glucocorticoid is prednisone.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said administration of one or more other chemotherapeutic agents is:

- (a) the administration of melphalan as a third treatment modality;
- (b) the administration of cyclophosphamide as a third treatment modality; or
- 5 (c) the administration of vincristine as a third treatment modality, BCNU as a fourth treatment modality, melphalan as a fifth treatment modality and cyclophosphamide as a sixth treatment modality.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said one or more chemotherapeutic agents is or are selected from the group consisting of melphalan, mitoxantrone, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, procarbazine, cytoxan, BCNU and doxorubicin.